

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 29, wherein the transport device further comprises a transport band (60),

wherein the collection containers (14,16,18) are disposed along the transport band (60) in a transport direction (22).

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 29, further comprising a blower device ~~(52, 54, 56)~~ coordinated to the collection containers, ~~(14, 16, 18)~~

wherein the blower device (52, 54, 56) receives the control signal from the data processor (50),

wherein the control signal ~~(74)~~ directs the corresponding blower device ~~(52, 54, 56)~~ to generate a stream of air and the stream of air is directed horizontally and perpendicularly to the direction of the transport device ~~(60)~~ in the region of the laundry pieces ~~(12)~~,

wherein individual laundry pieces (12) are conveyed separately and disposed in the collection device area corresponding to the blower device, such that the laundry pieces (12) are blown into the collection containers (14, 16, 18), and

wherein when the laundry pieces are not blown into the collection containers, the control signal (74) delivered by the data processor (50) is re-generated and the corresponding blower device (52, 54, 56) generates a further stream of air.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 29, wherein individual collection containers ~~(14,16,18)~~ are furnished with the registering device ~~(66,68,70)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the registering device ~~(66,68,70)~~ is predisposed and preswitched to the collection containers ~~(14,16,18)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the registering device ~~(66,1,68.1,70.1)~~ is disposed behind the collection containers ~~(14,16,18)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the registering device ~~(66,66.1,68,68.1,70,70.1)~~ is pre disposed and post disposed to the collection containers ~~(14,16,18)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 29, wherein the transport device ~~(20)~~ transports the laundry pieces ~~(12)~~ to the recognition device ~~(40)~~.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 29, wherein the feed device ~~(24,26)~~ further comprises a first transport band ~~(90)~~ having a plurality of individual compartments for receiving individual laundry pieces,

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 11, further comprising a sensor device ~~(34, 36)~~ for recognizing one of a predetermined number and a predetermined volume of laundry pieces ~~(12)~~ present within the funnel ~~(24, 26)~~.

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16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a sensor device ~~(34, 36)~~ present at each flap part ~~(28, 30)~~ for recognizing one of a predetermined number and a predetermined volume of laundry pieces ~~(12)~~ on the flap parts ~~(28, 30)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A device for sorting of laundry pieces comprising:

a feed device that receives the laundry pieces and dispenses them;

a transport device for transporting different types of laundry pieces dispensed from the feed device at a predetermined interval, wherein the interval is one of a predetermined distance between the laundry pieces on the transport device and a predetermined period of time between the dispensing of the laundry pieces, so that the laundry pieces are separate from each other;

a first collection device for receiving a first type of laundry pieces and disposed in a receiving relationship to the transport device;

a second collection device for receiving a second type of laundry pieces and disposed in a receiving relationship to the transport device;

a recognition device disposed near the transport device for determining different types of laundry pieces dispensed on the transport device, and for generating a data signal related thereto, the transport device transferring the first type of laundry pieces from the recognition device to the

region of the first collection device and for transferring the second type of laundry pieces from the recognition device to the region of the second collection device;

a registering device located with respect to the first collection device and to the second collection device for registering the laundry pieces transported on the transport device and generating a corresponding register signal;

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a data processor connected to the recognition device and to the registering device for receiving and processing the data signal received from the recognition device, and for receiving and processing the register signal received from the registering device, and generating a control signal in response thereto; and

a control means connected to the data processor for receiving the control signal, the control means selecting one of the first collection device and the second collection device based on the control signal and assuring that the first collection device receives the first type of laundry pieces and the second collection device receives the second type of laundry pieces.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the transport device further comprises:

a transport band, wherein the first collection device and the second collection device are disposed along the transport band in a transport direction; and

wherein the control means further comprises:

a first blower device coordinated to the first collection device for generating a first stream of air in response to the control signal, wherein the first stream of air is directed against the first type of laundry pieces on the transport band;

a second blower device coordinated to the second collection device for generating a second stream of air in response to the control signal, wherein the second stream of air is directed against the second type of laundry pieces on said transport band; and
wherein the laundry pieces are blown into the respective collection device.

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cont 19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the registering device comprises:

a first registering device predisposed and associated with respect to the first collection device, and

a second registering device predisposed and associated with respect to the second collection device.

20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the registering device comprises:

a first registering device disposed following the first collection device, and

a second registering device disposed following the second collection device.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the feed device comprises:

a feed transport band having a plurality of individual compartments, wherein individual laundry pieces are received into the individual compartments of the feed transport band;

(A)—receiving the laundry pieces in a feed device;

(B)—dispensing the laundry pieces from the feed device at a predetermined interval, wherein the interval is one of a predetermined distance between the laundry pieces on the transport device and a predetermined period of time between the dispensing of the laundry pieces, so that the laundry pieces are separate from each other;

(C)—receiving the laundry pieces dispensed from the feed device on a transport device disposed within reach of a recognition device and in a delivery relationship to a plurality of collection devices;

(D)—recognizing different types of laundry pieces with the recognition device;

(E)—delivering a data signal corresponding to individual separated laundry pieces from the recognition device to a data processor;

(F)—processing the data signal received from the recognition device in the data processor;

(G)—registering the individual separated laundry pieces disposed in the transport device with a register device predisposed ~~relative~~ relative to the plurality of collection devices;

(H)—generating a corresponding register signal associated with the registration of the individual laundry pieces in the register device;

(H) sending the register signal from the register device to the data processor;

(J)—generating a corresponding control signal for the individual separated laundry pieces in response to the received data signal and the received register signal;

(K)—using the data processor to select predetermined collection devices depending on the data signal;

(L)—controlling delivery of the individual separated laundry pieces coordinated to the data signal to a predetermined one of the plurality of collection devices;

(M)—employing the control signal for controlling the predetermined one of the plurality of collection devices for receiving of the individual separated laundry pieces corresponding to the control signal;

(N)—transferring the individual separated laundry pieces from the recognition device to the predetermined one of the plurality of collection devices; and

(O)—receiving the certain laundry piece in the predetermined one of the plurality of collection devices.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

including a transport band in the transport device;

disposing the plurality of collection devices along the transport band in a transport direction;

coordinating a blower device to one of the plurality of the collection device;

connecting the blower device to the data processor for controlling the blower device;

furnishing the plurality of collection devices with a register device;

delivering a control signal from the data processor for directing the corresponding blower device to generate a stream of air;

directing the stream of air horizontally and perpendicularly to the direction of the transport device in a region of the individual separated laundry pieces disposed in a collection device area corresponding to this blower device; and

blowing the individual separated laundry pieces into the predetermined collection container.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
predisposing the registering device relative to the predetermined collection device.
26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
post disposing the register device behind the predetermined collection device.
27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
furnishing a feed transport band having at least individual compartments as part of the feed device, the compartments transport laundry pieces;
furnishing at least one funnel with a flap floor for receiving laundry pieces from the compartments of the feed transport band;
emptying a contents of the funnel onto a transport band of said transport device leading to the recognition device; and
flipping open and flipping closed the flap floor such that laundry pieces falling out of the funnel are transferred to the recognition device.
28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
employing and disposing a plurality of funnels further comprising a plurality of flap floors, wherein the flap floors are flipped open only jointly and are flipped closed only jointly;
furnishing a sensor device for recognizing one of a predetermined number of laundry pieces and a predetermined volume of laundry pieces within each funnel; and

disposing the sensor device at each flap part for recognizing one of a predetermined number and a predetermined volume of laundry pieces on each flap part.

29. (Previously Presented) A device for sorting laundry pieces comprising:

a feed device that receives the laundry pieces and dispenses them;

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a transport device that receives the laundry pieces dispensed from the feed device at a predetermined interval, wherein the interval is one of a predetermined distance between the laundry pieces on the transport device and a predetermined period of time between the dispensing of the laundry pieces, so that the laundry pieces are separate from each other, wherein the transport device transports the laundry pieces in a transport direction;

a recognition device disposed in relation to the transport device for determining different types of the separated laundry pieces being transported by the transport device through a region, the recognition device generating a data signal in response to the recognition of individual separated laundry pieces;

a registering device disposed in relation to the transport device for sensing a location of a laundry piece on the transport device, the registering device generating a register signal for the individual laundry pieces indicating their presence at a location;

a data processor for receiving the data signal and the register signal for the laundry pieces, the data processor associating the data signal and the register signal, and generating a control signal in response thereto;

a plurality of collection containers disposed downstream of the recognition device in the transport direction for receiving laundry pieces, wherein the individual collection containers are predetermined to receive particular types of laundry pieces; and

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cont* a collection device for directing the particular types of laundry pieces to the predetermined collection containers based on the control signal from the data processor.

30. (New) The device according to claim 17, wherein the transport device is a conveyor belt.
